



Academy Prep
Center for Education

More Than
A School

*Transforming
Our Communities ...*





“I know for a fact that I would not be where I am and who I am had it not been for the loving and caring people at Academy Prep.”

LaDai Haywood, Academy Prep St. Petersburg Class of 2004,
Berkeley Preparatory School Class of 2008

I listen to hip-hop. I prefer fried chicken. I love watermelon. And I drink “red” Kool-Aid. But there is much more to me than that. I graduated from a middle school called Academy Prep. Going to school 11 hours a day, sometimes six days a week, for eleven months, sounds overboard to a regular kid who comes from a well to do family. To a kid from an underprivileged family, this school becomes home. It’s a positive environment conducive to learning. It’s very strict and structured, but it keeps us on the right path to ensure we have a bright future. There are all types of activities to get involved in and the students are always engaged.

Overall, it was an amazing experience! I graduated with the first class of girls in 2004. Academy Prep showed me that the world is bigger than St. Petersburg. We went to Buccaneers games, Rays games, Lightning games, art museums, sailing, ice skating, symphonies, and plays. We even attended a performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Mahaffey Theater! I was exposed to all these different things that my parents could not offer me, not because they didn’t want to, but because they didn’t have the means to.

Being a graduate of Academy Prep, I go back often to provide community service. I help out with tutoring, student activities, the summer program, even “chores” in the administrative office. For me, it goes deeper than just getting my service hours completed. It gives me the chance to interact with the students who are in the same position I was in just a few years ago. I know it means so much to them to be able to look at me and see that they, too, can do anything they set their sights on. I take great pride in the fact that I have become a role model for them. The feeling I get in helping the Academy Prep students can’t even be described.

The best thing that has come from my experiences at Academy Prep has been the opportunity to be a student at Berkeley Preparatory School. I know for a fact that I would not be where I am and who I am had it not been for the loving and caring people at Academy Prep.

One Child at a Time



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Dear Friend of Academy Prep:

Currently, Academy Prep serves almost 200 students like LaDai at our St. Petersburg and Tampa educational centers. These students come from communities where only a third of the students finish high school and fewer than half of the adults have high school diplomas. Poverty, violence, drugs, apathy, and crime are rampant in their neighborhoods.

In order to combat these odds, Academy Prep (5th through 8th grades):

- provides a vigorous college prep education to students who qualify for need-based scholarships.
- is in session up to 11 hours a day, 6 days a week, 11 months a year.
- includes enrichment activities like debate, karate, chess, community service, ballet, golf, and the arts.
- requires families to contribute up to 50 hours a year of service to the school.

Investing our time and resources in our Academy Prep students has yielded the following results:

- Although most of our first-year students start below grade level, by the end of their second year they have advanced two or three years ahead of their current grade level in reading and math.
- Daily attendance rates average 97.8% –the highest in our counties.
- Since 2000, **118 students have graduated** from our Academy Prep Centers. **96%** are in high school, college or have graduated from high school.
- These schools include Eckerd College, Dickinson College, Tuskegee University, Academy of the Holy Names, Berkeley Preparatory School, St. Petersburg Catholic High School, Tampa Preparatory School and Admiral Farragut Academy.

In addition to the excellent education we provide, our full-time graduate support personnel monitor our alumni's progress and provide additional counseling and support through college graduation. This assistance assures that our students **DO** graduate from college and **CAN** return to their communities to give back. They are the beginning of a new cycle of success and achievement for future generations.

Won't you help us ensure the success of students like LaDai? Please consider making an investment in the education of a young man or woman who, without your help, might become just another negative statistic. Join us in transforming our communities, one child at a time!

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Marcelli
 Board Chairman

Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg

Paul L. Whiting, Sr.
 Board Chairman

Academy Prep Center of Tampa

Opportunities to Support Success

Unlike other private schools supported in large part by tuition and contributions by students' families, Academy Prep Centers are completely funded by individuals, businesses and foundations in our local community. There are many ways to help.

Scholarship Fund:

These funds are the lifeblood of our organization and allow students to attend the Centers tuition-free.

- \$5,000+ Annual Student "Sponsorship"
- \$13,500+ Full Annual Student "Scholarship"

With these options, donors will receive periodic updates from sponsored students.

Every Dollar Counts:

- \$25+ One student's meals for a week
- \$500+ Three months of Saturday programming
- \$1,000+ Annual classroom supplies for one class
- \$2,500+ Textbooks for one class

Programs: Programs vary in cost and purpose. A donor may fund, for example, the Language Arts Program, the Enrichment Program, the Library, or a multitude of other naming opportunities.

Legacy Gifts: Leave a legacy by including Academy Prep in your estate plans. Consider leaving a gift in the form of a will or bequest, charitable gift annuity, or annuity trust.

Capital Gifts: Individuals, businesses and foundations sometimes choose to support our building projects as a way to invest in the future of their communities. Businesses that make a capital contribution to support campus facilities or equipment may be eligible for significant tax credits through the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program.

Payments: Gifts can be made via checks, automatic withdrawal, credit card, or stock transfer.

Tax Tip: The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals 70½ and older to rollover up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA directly to Academy Prep without a tax penalty through December 31, 2007.



To Give a Gift or Visit Our Schools

Academy Prep Foundation, Inc.

Joy Petit, Vice President for Development
2301 22nd Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 322-0800, ext. 2103
jpetit@academyprep.org

Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg

Gillian Barnes, Director of Development
2301 22nd Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 322-0800, ext. 2109
gbarnes@academyprep.org

Academy Prep Center of Tampa

Betsy Draper, Director of Development
1407 East Columbus Drive, Tampa, FL 33605
(813) 248-5600, ext. 131
bdraper@academyprep.org

www.academyprep.org